

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BTIO, VE

SUBJ: GOV REAFFIRMS POLICY NOT TO EXPORT GAS OR GAS
DERIVATIVES.

1. THE PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ IN HIS SPEECH OF AUGUST 29 FOLLOWING HIS SIGNING OF THE OIL REVERSION LAW (CARACAS 8952) MADE AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT ON NATURAL GAS POLICY. PEREZ STATED THAT HE WAS REAFFIRMING THE DECISION ADOPTED AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS ADMINISTRATION (MARCH 1974) NOT REPEAT NOT TO CONTINUE THE STUDIES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LIQUID GAS PLANTS WHICH WOULD PRODUCE FOR EXPORT. VENEZUELAN GAS, PEREZ SAID, WILL BE USED FOR DOMESTIC INDUSTRY, IN PARTICULAR THE PERTO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

2. COMMENT- THE GOV HAS RECEIVED MANY PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS TO EXPORT GAS IN ITS NATURAL STATE, AS LNG, AND AS LPG. SEVERAL OF THE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN FROM US. GROUPS. ONE OF THE MOST RECENT WAS FOR A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FROM LAKE MARACAIBO ACROSS CENTRAL AMERICA TO THE US. BORDER AT EL PASO. THE PROJECT WAS SUBMITTED BY A CONSORTIUM OF THE FLORIDA GAS COMPANY, SOTHERN NATURAL RESOURCES OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, AND TEXAS GAS TRANSMISSION CORPORTATION
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OF OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY. SEVERAL OTHER US. PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN

PENDING SINCE THE PREVIOUS CALDERA ADMINISTRATION.

3. SHORTLY AFTER ASSUMING OFFICE IN MARCH 1974. PRESIDENT PEREZ TERMINATED THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL OFFICE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS WHICH WAS CONSIDERING PROPOSALS FOR A MAJOR LNG INSTALLATION. TECHNICAL OPINION IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS IS THAT VENEZUELA DOES NOT HAVE SURPLUS GAS AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT. GAS IN THE CONCESSION AREAS (ASSOCIATED GAS) IS BEING UTILIZED FOR MAINTAINING WELL PRESSURE BY REINJECTION, AND FOR THE EMBRYONIC PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY. AN INVENTORY OF NON-ASSOCIATE GAS HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED.

4. FOR COMMERCE- US FIRMS CONTEMPLATING MAKEING PROPOSALS FOR GAS EXPORT FACILITIES IN VENEZUELA SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THE GOV POLICY ON THIS MATTER.
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